

From: Bob Bainbridge
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I worked for IBM Corporation for 40 years and during that time saw many abuses by Microsoft Corporation. I saw the IBM PC Co., a division of IBM, become so fearful of Microsoft's abusive power that they refused to preload IBM's own operating system, OS/2, on customer machines. Microsoft threatened to withhold Windows shipments to IBM which would have virtually put the IBM PC Co. out of business. This was back when Bill Gates saw OS/2 as a real threat to his Windows system. They also charged IBM higher prices for Windows than other competitors. I saw them make a minor upgrade from Windows 3.1 to 3.11 that suddenly caused all Windows programs to no longer run under OS/2. IBM then had to patch OS/2 to allow the Windows programs to run. They finally reached the point where IBM knew they were chasing a moving target and froze the Windows code at that point. Because of this most newer Windows programs will not run under OS/2. I saw other companies, like Gateway, pressured by Microsoft to the point that they would not preload OS/2 and would not support it if a customer called with a problem. Only in Europe, where Bill Gates didn't have as much clout, did OS/2 flourish. At the time of my retirement in 2000, IBM was still using OS/2 to run most of the mainframe consoles since IBM mainframe customers wouldn't tolerate the flakiness of Windows. By gaining a monopoly Microsoft has been able to push untested and unstable software products onto their customers and then charge them for the upgrades to fix the problems as in Windows Second Edition. The DOJ settlement has let Microsoft off with a "smack on the hand" and is much too light of a punishment. ONLY after a large financial penalty will they change their arrogant ways.

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